

SUNDAY NEWS



2008 35th Anniversary of MCC Toronto ... Celebrating our Past & Securing Our Future

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May 4, 2008

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Today in our Social Hall

Celebration of Birthdays & Anniversaries

Golf Tournament Registration Table

Volunteer Fair

Anointer Server Team

Children's Ministry

Garden Fairies

Multi Media Team

Sermon Transcribing Team

BEAT

Choir Concert Ticket Sales

Information Centre

Pride Parade Team

Meetings / Events Today

Deacon Meeting

Room 109 / 12:30pm to 3:00pm

Music Rehearsal - Sunday Evening Worship Service

Sanctuary / 4:00 to 6:00pm (*Newcomers welcome.*)

Sunday Evening Worship Service

Sanctuary / 7:00pm (*Band kicks off at 6:45pm.*)

Meetings / Events This Week

Rainbow Toastmasters

Monday, May 5 / Room 109 / 6:45pm

Dances of Universal Peace

Tuesday, May 6 / Social Hall / 7:30pm to 9:00pm

Creating a Life That Matters (ASE)

Wednesday, May 7 / Room 109 / 6:45pm to 8:45pm

The Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 8 / Sanctuary & Social Hall / 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Creating a Life That Matters (ASE)

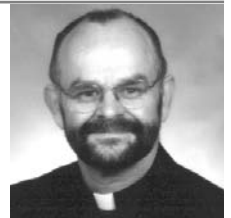
Friday, May 9 / Room 109 / 6:45pm to 8:45pm

Join us tonight at 7:00pm
in celebration of the first anniversary
of our evening service.



Share Rev. Paul Fairley's Lessons for Life
"Beam Me Up".

Hello and welcome to MCC Toronto!



If you are visiting us for the very first time, we extend a special welcome to you. Please feel welcome to participate as fully as you like in our service today. Even if you have never been to MCC Toronto - or to any church - before, you are welcome to come forward to share Communion. Please join us after the service today in the Social Hall for a time of refreshment.

Our core values include: Caring, Celebration, Diversity, Faith, and Joy. Our hope is that today you will experience the touch of the Holy, and be filled with a sense of God's abiding presence in your life, and in life around you.

And whether your journey brings you back to MCC Toronto next week or sometime in the future, know that we are grateful you have joined us today.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, C.M.

Lessons for Life



May 11
9:00am & 11:00am: **"Pentecost & Mother's Day: A Breath of Fresh Air"**

May 18
9:00am, 11:00am & 7:00pm: **"Road Maps"**

May 25
9:00am, 11:00am & 7:00pm: **"God Calling"**

Pride Series

June 1
9:00am, 11:00am & 7:00pm: **"All Are Welcome" Lessons from Pride (Past)**

June 8
9:00am, 11:00am & 7:00pm: **"All Are Welcome" Lessons from Pride (Religion - Race)**

June 15
9:00am, 11:00am & 7:00pm: **"All Are Welcome" Lessons from Pride (Interests)**

June 22
9:00am, 11:00am & 7:00pm: **"All Are Welcome" Lessons from Pride (Demons)**

June 29 Pride Service
11:00am, South Stage on Church Street:
"All Are Welcome" Lessons from Pride (Energy)

Request for title...

Last Sunday Rev. Brent Hawkes made reference within his Lesson for Life to a book called *"When the Heart Waits" (Spiritual Direction for Life's Sacred Questions)* by Sue Monk Kid.

Morning Offertory & Anthem

HIGHER PRAISE

Higher praise is an energetic, enthusiastic and passionate group of singers that leads worship through song every Sunday evening of the year at MCC Toronto. A group that can deliver a powerful ensemble sound, dynamic backup vocals and outstanding vocal soloists, Higher Praise began singing together on May 6 2007 and celebrates its one year anniversary this weekend.

PENTECOST BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY

A feast of the universal Church which commemorates the Descent of the Holy Ghost upon the Apostles, fifty days after the Resurrection of Christ, on the ancient Jewish festival called the "feast of weeks" or Pentecost. On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came down visibly on the Apostles. He gave them the power to speak in strange tongues to the crowds that came to Jerusalem for that Feast. He also transformed them, from selfish and timid men into giants of courage and faith.

WHAT HAPPENED ON PENTECOST?

Ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven, the twelve apostles, Jesus' mother and family, and many other of His disciples gathered together in Jerusalem for the Jewish harvest festival that was celebrated on the fiftieth day of Passover. While they were indoors praying, a sound like that of a rushing wind filled the house and tongues of fire descended and rested over each of their heads. This was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on human flesh promised by God through the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-29). The disciples were suddenly empowered to proclaim the gospel of the risen Christ. They went out into the streets of Jerusalem and began preaching to the crowds gathered for the festival. Not only did the disciples preach with boldness and vigor, but by a miracle of the Holy Spirit they spoke in the native languages of the people present, many who had come from all corners of the Roman Empire. This created a sensation. The apostle Peter seized the moment and addressed the crowd, preaching to them about Jesus' death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins. The result was that about three thousand converts were baptized that day. (You can read the Biblical account of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-41).

WHAT IS THE LITURGICAL COLOR FOR PENTECOST?

Red is the liturgical color for this day. Red recalls the tongues of flame in which the Holy Spirit descended on the first Pentecost. The color red also reminds us of the blood of the martyrs. These are the believers of every generation who by the power of the Holy Spirit hold firm to the true faith even at the cost of their lives.

Social Hall / Social Hour

MCC TORONTO VOLUNTEER FAIR

How many teams do we have in the church and what do they do? On May 4 join us in the Social Hall after each service. The individuals of MCC Toronto ministry teams want to meet with you personally. Come and meet the people involved!

Sanctuary / 4:00 to 6:00pm

MUSIC REHEARSAL - Sunday Evening Worship Service

The Sunday Evening Worship Team welcome all voices, especially sopranos and altos. This is a fun, hard-working group that meets from 4-6:00pm each Sunday before the 7pm service. They perform a wide and ever-expanding repertoire of Praise Song, Gospel and World Music. If you enjoy singing, like to harmonize, and feel comfortable singing and leading a congregation in worship, come to our 7pm service and/or contact BStein@MCCToronto.com / (416) 406-6228 ext 215.

Sanctuary / 7:00pm

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE

Progressive worship with great music, anointing for healing, communion, prayer partners. Team Preaching with Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, Rev. Jo Bell and Deacon Randi Williams.

ADULT SPIRITUAL EDUCATION (ASE)

Visit: www.MCCToronto.com.ASE.htm

A NOTE FROM OUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

National Volunteer Week Concludes today, May 4, 2008.

Have you counted how many volunteers you have met since walking through the doors? How would you know if someone was a volunteer? Exactly, volunteers at MCC Toronto have stated they love what they do and often it just feels like your getting continuous warm hugs as you meet each new person.

We want to acknowledge each and every volunteer at MCC Toronto. We couldn't do it without you, so please stand where your seated during the blessing of the gifts and be acknowledged along with blessing.

Volunteer Fair

This is your chance! You can speak to people who are directly connected to that team you've been curious about. Today after each service, come and check out the volunteer fair in the social hall.

Some Teams will have a table in the social hall, you'll find information about the team, what they do, when they do it and perhaps some treats!!!

Contests

What fun contests! The Thrift shop contest and the National volunteer week contest. Winners to be announced after the 11am service.

The thrift shop wants to see how creative you can be. Here's how to play. On the Special events board located in the social hall, (northeast corner) a picture has been posted. You think of a caption, write it on a card with your name, and drop it in the 'Caption Box' in the thrift shop. The best caption wins a ten-dollar voucher for clothing or linens of which they have a huge selection. See what others are saying about this picture! Do you have a picture you would like to share? Hand it in at the thrift store and get involved in the chatter.

Sandra Fontenelle

SFontenelle@MCCToronto.com / (416) 406-6228 ext. 126
Coordinator of Volunteer and Engagement



Angels of the Week

Lector Team

The Angels of the week are the people who bring us God's word each week.

They study the chosen verses and practice hard to ensure that we hear the message as clearly as we can.

The gift they give us is difficult to measure - as it is so individual to each of us.

Let us thank each and every one of them!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Volunteer Coordinator

Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto is a faith community, originally founded to serve the spiritual needs of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered (GLBT) community. Attracting more than 500 people weekly to its Sunday services and being one of the largest congregations of any church in the Toronto area we have an opportunity for a full time Volunteer Coordinator who can bring energy and expertise to this exciting role.

As Volunteer Coordinator you will work with the Executive Director, Senior Pastor and staff to develop and implement the engagement system of MCC Toronto. You will be the epitome of customer focus and leadership while building relationships, monitoring volunteers and being successful in achieving the goals and objectives of this ministry. Duties and responsibilities will include:

- ongoing recruitment, retention and recognition of volunteers
- providing training and development to Team Leaders and staff to facilitate an enhanced volunteer experience
- managing the volunteer data base
- assisting staff and volunteers to create and achieve measurable goals within their areas

This position requires excellent communication, presentation and planning skills as well as the ability to continually look at enhancing the volunteer ministry. Technical abilities required include Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and MS Access. Previous experience in a non profit environment, working with volunteers and working within a spiritual setting would be an asset. If you feel your skills and abilities match the needs of this position and you are available to engage volunteers on Sundays, with flexibility on weekdays, please send your resume, including salary expectations, no later than **May 14, 2008 to: Rvert@MCCToronto.com**



Thank you Sandra Fontenelle

We are very sad to report that Sandra Fontenelle will be leaving the staff of MCC Toronto at the end of May. Sandra, who has been on leave from the Children's Aid Society, will be returning to CAS in a new position.

In her short tenure on the MCC Toronto staff, Sandra has done an amazing job recruiting new volunteers and engaging those of us who have been around awhile. She has been instrumental in the formation of the Home Team, which engages new members into the life of the church. We also have Sandra to thank for the very successful and entertaining Volunteer Appreciation Party a few weeks ago.

We will continue to see Sandra as she continues her role as Deacon and as an active MCC Toronto member. Thank you Sandra!

Let's Make "OUR HOUSE" a Home

During the month of April the Sunday school room (B9) had extensive work completed to contain ground water seepage into the basement. It is not unusual for buildings as old as ours to allow ground water to seep through during the winter thaw or in times of heavy rain.

To make the Sunday school classroom more habitable for our children and for the many teams that use it for meetings we have taken steps to change this. A covered trough has been created to divert any collected water on the floor to a sump pump which removes the excess water to a city drain. We will never be able to completely stop the natural flow of water below ground but we can work with nature to re direct it.

The north side of the building has had top soil applied, completing the restoration work to the foundation of the rainbow room. Sod will soon be placed to finish it off. The rainbow room is now being used by over 40 people daily and many teams use it for meetings on the weekend. This will be the first year in many that the room will stay dry.

A reminder to everyone, there are hundreds of crocus and daffodil bulbs that are showing their heads around the lawns of the building. These were planted by the Children of the Children's Ministry two years ago and should be showing up soon.

If you see something or know of something that could use your talents please contact the OUR HOUSE Team through the Information Centre, Roy Dean (OurHouseTeam@MCCToronto.com) or call(416) 406-6228 ext. 179.

THRIFT SHOP

The MCC Toronto Thrift shop is located on the balcony of the Social Hall is open Sundays between 10:00am and 1:00pm.

All proceeds from the donated merchandise go to support Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto.

During March, 2008, the Thrift Shop contributed \$797.50 to the Church. During, April, 2008, the Thrift Shop raised \$843.00 (\$210.75 per week) for MCC Toronto. There is a large selection of fashions on the west side of the balcony which includes slacks, shorts, T-shirts, shoes, tops and several nice men's two-piece suits suitable for spring and summer. Other interesting stock includes coffee makers, a hair drier, a fondu pot with stand and forks, a patio set with four chairs, table and umbrella, a fine designer motorcycle helmet, table lamps, roller blades, several hot plates, a brand new designer Espresso/ Capuccino coffee machine with manual and instruction video, framed pictures, small sets of dishes, a complete set of pyrex cookware, dinner table cloths, bath and hand towels, place mats and napkins, and several nice kitchen clocks.. Bring donations to the shop on Sundays or contact Louis Bodnar for pick-up of larger gifts (Tel. 416-929-9513). Donations may be left at the church during the week: please phone ahead to make certain someone is there to let you in and ring the bell to be admitted. All donations should be carried up the stairs on the north side of the stage and deposited safely behind the green velvet curtains in the Shop. *Thank you for your support!*



"ALL ARE WELCOME"

Have you thought about how you would like to help with our Pride Service and/or Pride Parade?

For some, greeting and ushering at our service is an annual We'd like to hear from you even if it's for the first time. We will be happy to train you!

We also need people to walk with our SPECTACULAR float. Let's show Toronto how amazing our church is.

CONTACT

PrideService@MCCToronto.com
PrideParade@MCCToronto.com



Wellspring (MCC Toronto Partner)

In collaboration with the Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto, Wellspring hosts two cancer support groups at their Coach House and a Bereavment Support Group.

Support for Lesbians (and partners) Coping with a Diagnosis of Cancer

Gay Men's Cancer Information and Networking Group

Bereavment Support Group

www.Wellspring.ca / (416) 961-1928

A MESSAGE FROM ANNE BRAYLEY

Chair of the Congregational Giving Committee

In April we feel it should be spring, but there's usually a last gasp of winter chill left in the air. We know that if patience rules, we will finally be rewarded with the breath of new life. Such is the metaphor for much in life. We wish for change but must often wait, without knowing how or when it will come. Our spiritual growth may follow the same pattern. We invest time and energy in developing values, commitment and beliefs that may seem to bear little fruit at first. But this is the nature of growth. As a trusted friend always told me, "Anne, from little acorns do oak trees grow". The journey may be long but our investment in MCC Toronto will be worth it as we strengthen our spiritual home and ourselves along the way.

Fore Heaven's Sake !
The 3RD Annual MCC Toronto
Golf Tournament
needs some Angels:

Sponsorship,
Silent Auction and
Prize Angels



Be an angel and donate!!

All Angels will be recognized in Connections, MCC Toronto website and the Tournament Program.

So don't putt around, swing into action...

Download a registration form from our web site:

www.MCCToronto.com

E-mail: **GOLF@MCCToronto.com**

(See our ad in the back page.)

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

.. is an avenue for friends outside of the congregation to support us financially so that we may carry on the mission and values of MCC Toronto. These friends might not attend MCC Toronto regularly or at all, but they might believe strongly in the social aspects of our mission and thus want to help out and be kept informed of what we do. Brochures may be found at the Information Centre or in the pews. So get a few, pass them on to friends and family that you think may be interested in what we do!
 Contact: (416) 406-6228 x 111 or Finance@MCCToronto.com



Sponsor - A - Day

Maria Lau
 has sponsored a day of our mortgage
 May 8, 2008
*in memory of her beloved mother,
 the late Mrs, Rose Lau, on the
 21st anniversary of her passing.*

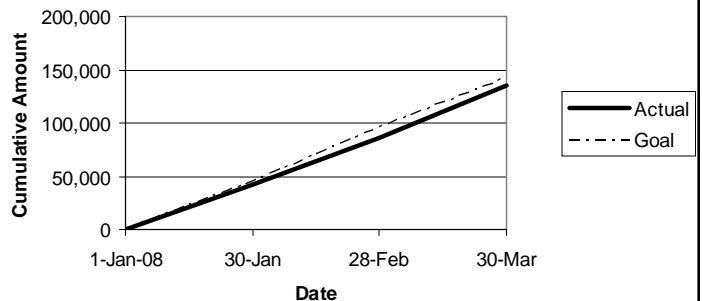
Thank you.

Building Bridges

MCC Toronto has become a very important part of the lives of many people. We are able to play that role through the generosity of your financial support.

As of March 30, you have given \$135,404 through your regular offerings. Our year-to-date goal is \$142,075.

2008 Offerings



Thank you for being part of MCC Toronto, and sharing your resources so that we may continue to build the souls of people by meeting their needs, and to heal real human hurts through the many ministries of our church. Your abundant giving is making a difference in peoples' lives!



HAVE YOU UPDATED YOUR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

Have you been sent a new credit card, either with a new number or a new expiry date? Don't forget to **update your Sustained Giving information!** Please contact David Sterritt at (416) 406-6228 x 101 or dsterritt@mcctoronto.com with your new information.

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Rainbow Toastmasters

Do you get "butterflies" in your stomach when you have to speak in public? **Rainbow Toastmasters** helps you get the butterflies in formation. Members learn by speaking to groups and working with others in a fun and supportive environment.

www.rainbow.toastmastersclub.org

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SATURDAY MAY 31, 2008

Rolling Hills Golf Club

12808 Warden Avenue, Stouffville, ON / Phone: (905) 888-1955

Registration: 12 noon

128 Golfers - 32 Teams

18 holes of golf (including power cart),
dinner, a loot bag for each player and
an exciting awards banquet.

Fun Contests for every level of player!

Putting Contest with a grand prize for the PUTT OFF winner!

HOLE-IN-ONE Contest

Prize: Trip to Cancun courtesy of
Carol Steward & Conquest Vacations

- ✓ \$125 for golf (a power cart and an awards dinner).
Add \$10 for a chance to win your golf day FREE.
- ✓ \$50 tax receipt given.
- ✓ Lots of fun golf plus contests and prizes.
- ✓ Our special guest, Deb Pearce from 103.9 PROUD FM will MC.
Deb's assistant, Ms Farra N Hyte will greet the prize winners.

Come to the golf table in the Social Hall after
services to register or contact
GOLF@MCCToronto.com.

If you would like to add your business name to our list of
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ext 102 or GOLF@MCCToronto.com

